

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 6, 2011

Dear Chairman Mica and Ranking Member Rahall:

We are writing today urging you to fund surface transportation at a robust level, higher than or at least equal to the current funding level. According to numerous experts, including the American Society of Civil Engineers, the U.S. needs to invest an additional \$1 trillion beyond current levels in the next ten years just to maintain a state of good repair and meet demand. Not only do transportation investments provide businesses with reliable and cost-effective freight infrastructure; they also create and sustain millions of jobs, and reinvigorate our communities.

Since expiring on September 30, 2009, the Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users has been extended seven times. Congress' inability to pass a new authorization in the last 20 months has created great uncertainty in the transportation community, resulting in a slowdown in transportation activities across the nation. Reducing investment in America's transportation system at this time will have a negative impact on the construction, engineering, manufacturing, and materials companies, which are already struggling with high unemployment. It will also result in a transportation system that is less reliable, less safe, and less able to serve the needs of our interconnected economy.

Extreme unemployment in construction and other industries combined with advantageously low interest rates and a competitive bidding environment make this an ideal time for significant new transportation infrastructure investments. Transportation infrastructure is one of most cost-efficient and effective ways to reduce unemployment and stimulate the economy; studies suggest that for \$1 billion spent on transportation projects, more than 35,000 jobs are created. Acting now will also enable state governments to save on the hidden costs of deteriorating infrastructure, through reduced maintenance costs and more efficient delivery of people, goods, and services.

The deterioration of the transportation infrastructure also reduces the competitiveness of the nation's businesses and encourages companies to locate elsewhere in the global marketplace. While the United States waits, China is investing over \$1 trillion in their transportation infrastructure over the next five years, India is finishing up a \$500 billion investment, and Brazil is spending over \$900 billion in the next five years. In the 2010 World Bank study of trade logistics performance, the U.S. was ranked 15th in the world. Anemic funding levels will only make this dire situation worse.

As national transportation leaders, you know firsthand the importance of a reliable, efficient surface transportation system. Likewise, you understand the real financial impact that crumbling infrastructure, congestion, and limited mobility have on American

businesses and families. We urge you to fund a robust transportation bill that will put America back to work, provide businesses with relief from the costs of congestion and the insecurity of unreliable, inadequate infrastructure.

We look forward to working with you on legislation that will adequately fund our transportation system and that will put Americans back to work and bring America's transportation infrastructure into the 21st century.

Sincerely,